

AMENDED CLAIM 50 IN CLEAN FORM

50 An ICT device for the detection of the C-polysaccharide cell wall antigen of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in a liquid sample, which device comprises a housing equipped with a window and containing a strip of bibulous material having at least a first zone and a second zone, said strip being so positioned within said housing that its second zone appears directly beneath said window, said strip being further characterized in that

- a) said first zone has movably embedded therein a conjugate of a labeling agent and purified antibodies specific to the cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, and
- b) said second zone is located downstream of said first zone and has immovably bound thereto a stripe of purified antibodies specific to the same cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, all of which antibodies in both zones are further characterized in that their antigen specificity has been attained by passing polyvalent antibodies to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* over a chromatographic affinity column to which is coupled a purified cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen obtained from a culture of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* bacteria according to the following method:

- (i) harvesting cells from the said culture in the form of a wet cell pellet;

- (ii) suspending the wet cell pellet in an alkaline solution and mixing;
- (iii) adjusting the pH of the resultant mixture to an acid pH with a strong acid;
- (iv) separating the acidified product from step (iii) into two layers;
- (v) removing the upper layer and adjusting its pH to approximate neutrality;
- (vi) adding to the product from step (v) a broad spectrum protease enzyme and digesting to destroy residual proteins;
- (vii) adjusting the pH of the product from step (vi) to an alkaline pH with a weakly alkaline aqueous solution; and
- (viii) separating out the cell wall C-polysaccharide antigen of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* having no more than 10% protein.